Militant Cuban Groups In Miami Area Linked To Acts of Terrorism

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Militant pro- and anti-Castro Cuban groups in the Miami area are engaged in terrorist activities in the United States and abroad, according to closed-door testimony before a Senate subcommittee released yesterday.

The testimony came in May before the Judiciary Internal Security Subcommittee chaired by Sen. James O. Eastland (D-Miss.). It said that as many as 50 Cuban groups have been operating in Miami at one time, many of them engaged in violent plots involving local actions and activities in Mexico, Central and South America and Cuba.

Lt. Thomas Lyons, who has been with the Dade County (Miami) Public Safety Department for more than nine years, and Raul J. Diaz of the department's organized crime, terrorist and security unit, told of efforts to track down terrorist elements in the Miami area.

Lyons said some individuals "use Dade County as a base for international terrorism against allied governments of Cuba, Cuban shipping, Communists, purported Communists and individuals who take a stand against their terroristic-type tactics."

During the last two years, he said, there have been four homicides "with strong indicators on each that the motivations were political in nature and terroristic by design."

Diaz said some Castro groups have infiltrated exile organizations and there were plans to assassinate Latin American diplomats and foreign ministers.

Lyons said his unit received information from a confidential source early this year that there would be an attempt on the life of Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger during his February visit to Costa Rica.

The FBI and the Secret Service were notified, he said. A well-known fugitive exile, Orlando Bosch, was jailed during Kissinger's visit after illegally entering Costa Rica. There were no incidents during the visit.